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COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Koethen Airfield

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PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

DATE PREPARED 19 February 1952

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1. Between 11:20 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 2 February 1952, Koethen airfield was observed from its eastern side and northwestern corner. Three jet fighters covered with tarpaulins were parked at the runway. The rudder assemblies of two jet fighters were observed in the partially open hangar north of the field. Three jet fighters and one single-engine trainer with a radial engine and long cockpit were identified in the southern hangar which was open. It appeared that other aircraft were also parked in this hangar. The runway was covered with a thin layer of hard snow. There was no flying. The visibility was good. There was a medium degree of cloudiness.

2. Both a German at the field and a railroadman stated that 24 to 27 jet fighters were stationed at the field. *

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* Field Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by a new by activated fighter regiment and an unidentified unit which arrived from Strausberg in November 1951.

the new fighter regiment is equipped with only a few MIG-15s. If the concordant statements are correct, the unit from Strausberg may also be equipped with jet aircraft. This assumption is supported by two reports, according to which a train with six MIG-15 arrived from the U.S.S.R. on 19 January 1952. No jet aircraft other than the MIG-15 has been observed in Koethen. However, the unit in Koethen has the characteristics of a ground attack unit. Therefore, it is believed possible that it is the first experimental ground attack unit of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army which is equipped with jet planes. have not yet observed a specific pattern in the flying activity of this unit. Judging by the frequent fuel supplies delivered to the ground unit it is inferred that the unit practiced intensive flying.

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No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

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